



North Central Region

Civil Air Patrol

North Central Region News

Volume 2006

December



Wreaths Across America to Decorate 21 Veterans Cemeteries in NCR

Civil Air Patrol members across North Central Region will honor veterans December 14 as they lay wreaths in veterans cemeteries. The ceremonies will be coordinated simultaneously at more than 200 locations in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. At each participating location, five wreaths with flags representing the each branch of America's armed services and a sixth wreath bearing the POW-MIA flag will be placed during a wreath-laying ceremony administered with Civil Air Patrol, veterans organizations and other civic-minded groups participating.

Morrill Worcester, president of Worcester Wreath Company in Harrington, Maine, started the annual event 15 years ago when his company was faced with a surplus of wreaths late in the holiday season. His company provides 5,000 wreaths each year for graves at Arlington National Cemetery. Some 300 boxes of wreaths were shipped to CAP units and other organizations coordinating the 200 local events.

Local coordinators have receive a scripted ceremony that takes about 25 minutes to complete. Six specially decorated holiday wreaths were shipped free of charge to the lead Squadron. The wreaths are one each, for Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and POW/MIA's. The local squadron controls the rest of the ceremony.

(See the latest list of Cemeteries in North Central Region on Page 4)

National Headquarters Moment of Silence Honors CAP's 65th Anniversary

Echoing similar ceremonies at the same time throughout the nation, and North Central Region, Civil Air Patrol officers, cadets, staff and guests gathered at 11 am Dec. 1 at National Headquarters at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., to observe a moment of silence to mark the organization's 65th anniversary.

Those gathered outside the National Headquarters heard Mark Schultz, CAP deputy director of plans and programs, preface the 15-second silent pause by calling on those gathered to remember CAP members past and present for their service to the nation.

"Today we honor the Civil Air Patrol, formed on Dec. 1, 1941, less than a week before the attack on Pearl Harbor propelled the United States into World War II. For 65 years through tireless volunteer efforts and without fanfare the Civil Air Patrol has served the nation," Schultz said.

The moment of silence, he said, was:

- "To remember the heroic men and women of CAP who stopped the Nazi U-boat menace in American waters during World War II, saving countless lives and preserving liberty for all;
- "To remember The members who respond day or night when planes are overdue and emergency locator transmitters go off;

(Continued on Page 5)

Training Budgets Announced

NCR Vice Commander Col. Tom Weston has announced the wing-by-wing training budgets for FY 2007 totaling over \$220,000 for the entire region.

The funds may be used for any SAR, CD or DR missions, pilot continuing training, checkrides, or other valid training, as long as prior WMIRS approval has been received. Orientation ride funding may be used for both powered or glider orientation flights, said Weston.

Wing	AF Training Funds	Cadet O-Rides
IA	\$19,354	\$7,636
KS	\$22,703	\$7,054
MN	\$74,207	\$24,289
MO *	\$14,786 (\$27,381)	\$3,495 (\$6,472)
NE	\$29,046	\$7,927
ND	\$23,408	\$7,490
SD	\$21,600	\$4,509
NCR/HQ	\$3,329	

* Missouri Wing participates in the Consolidated Maintenance Program, making distributed funds less than total finds because NCR retains part of the training funds for direct payment of maintenance. The figure in parentheses is the total funding, including retained maintenance money.

The North Central Region News is published monthly by North Central Region, Civil Air Patrol, LtCol Mike Marek, editor and NCR/PAO; Col. Sean P. Fagan, Region Commander.

Please send submissions by the 10th of each month to:

pao@ncr.cap.gov

“Commander’s Call” by Col. Sean P. Fagan

Where has the year gone? It just seems like last week I was swimming and enjoying the summer. Now, I’m buried under three inches of ice covered by five inches of snow! Regardless of whether your under snow or not, it easy to see that the end of the year and the holiday season is upon us. If you don’t believe me, just go to the local shopping mall.

During the hustle and bustle of the season, it’s very easy to forget the reason that we are allowed to celebrate the holidays. It is because of the American men and women in uniform. The generations of military men and women of both the past and the present, who give unselfishly of themselves so that we can enjoy the freedoms that so many of us take for granted. The freedom to worship the way we want, the freedom to express ourselves, and yes, the freedom to celebrate this wonderful season.

Many of us in the North Central Region have members of our family currently serving in the military. My son is currently in the United States Army, spending another Christmas away from home. Although I would like nothing more then to have him home with his family, I am so very proud of the service he provides for his country. I’m sure that all of you who have family members away, be they a father or mother, a son or daughter, a brother or sister, would like nothing more then to have them safely home for the holidays. Just remember that it is because of dedicated people like them, that we have this safe home to return to.

So this holiday season, whether you’re decorating your house, lighting your candles, praying or shopping, take just a moment to yourself and quietly thank those that came before and those that serve their country now. It is because of these courageous men and women that we can enjoy the freedom and peace of the season.

To each and every one of you who serve so faithfully in the Civil Air Patrol, I would like to give you my personal thanks. It is through your “Service Before Self” that have made the North Central Region one of the top in this Nation and very proud for me to let every one know that I work with the most dedicated people in all the CAP.

Let me close by wishing you all the happiness of the season.

Faithfully in Service,

Sean P. Fagan Col. CAP
Commanding Officer
North Central Region



Air Force Observes IAWG Exercise

Over CAP fifty officers and cadets were on hand as the Air Force observed a November 18th Iowa Wing Operations Exercise in Davenport.

The mission was part of a two-year cycle in which Air Force evaluators provide an observation without a grade one year and an evaluation in alternate years.

Weather hampered air operations during the morning of the exercise but the weather cleared for afternoon sorties with crews completing their objectives quickly and safely.

Air Force evaluators will return to Iowa Wing for an evaluated exercise in June 2007.



Above, 1Lt Tom Boeckmann passes radio traffic. Left, an aircrew plans a sortie during the Davenport exercise.

MNWG Members Complete first aid, CPR training

Seventeen members of the Minnesota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol completed a Red Cross First Aid and CPR course Saturday, November 18 in Hutchinson. The instructor was Mrs. Kirsten Dean, Director of the McLeod County Chapter of the Red Cross, and the mother of Hutchinson's newest cadets.

Major Chet Wilberg, commander of the Hutchinson Composite Squadron, handled facility arrangements where the course was held.

"This class is the best I've ever been to," Wilberg said. "Mrs. Dean kept it light, but packed full of information. All of the cadets seemed to learn a lot and had fun in the process."

The 17 personnel participating in the training were from the Hutchinson Composite Squadron, Wesota Composite Squadron in Willmar, and St. Paul Composite Squadron. All personnel graduated and received certification from the Red Cross in First Aid and CPR.

Those who completed the training were:

Hutchinson: Maj Chet Wilberg, and Cadets Andrew Heisel, Nate Wingo, Matthew Heisel, Peter Hibma, Andrew Puckett, and Korbin Dean

Wesota: Maj Ruth Hoffman, and Cadets Gabriel Turner and Aviv Chetrit

St Paul: Capt Paul Pieper, Lt Col Charles Graf, and Cadets Derek Fox, Zach Wondra, Andrew Presteguard, Caleb Schmidt, and Anna Kokoreva



St. Paul Composite Squadron Commander, Capt. Paul Pieper, was among the senior members and cadets to complete first aid and CPR training.

North Central Region News

Veterans Cemeteries in North Central Region to be served by Wreaths Across America and CAP

Minnesota

Fort Snelling National Cemetery - Minneapolis

Lt. Richard Geis
651-636-9724
Valley Composite Squadron

Nebraska

Forest Lawn Cemetery - Omaha

Mary Blodgett
402-777-3374
Skyline All Stars - Greiss,
Rowher, Blodgett

Iowa

Keokuk National Cemetery - Keokuk

Gary Folluo
319-524-5410
American Legion 41/SAL Sq 41
Iowa Det

Missouri

Springfield National Cemetery - Springfield

Shawna Eslinger
417-693-4472
Springfield Regional Composite
Squadron

Fort McPherson National Cemetery - Maxwell

Capt. Barbara Nitz
308-535-0273
Lee Bird Composite Squadron

Kansas

Kansas Veterans Cemetery at Wakeeney

Lt. Col. Errot Wuertz
785-623-1634
Hays Flight Squadron

Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery - St. Louis

Maj. David Miller
314-842-1600
Missouri Wing Group II

Nebraska Veterans Home Cemetery - Grand Island

Carol Hanson
308-384-5541
Patriot Guard Riders - Nebraska

North Dakota

North Dakota Veterans Cemetery - Mandan

Capt. Connie Nikiforoff
701-258-2674
Bismark Composite Squadron

Kansas Veterans Cemetery at Fort Dodge

Lt. Michael Avritt
620-290-2038
Great Plains Bison Squadron

Jefferson City National Cemetery - Jefferson City

Joe & Linda Smith
573-528-6930
Patriot Guard Riders - Missouri

South Dakota

Hills of Rest Memorial Park Cemetery - Sioux Falls

Lt. Col. Tim Steppan
605-332-1704
Sioux Falls Composite Squadron

Leavenworth National Cemetery - Lansing

Capt. Roger Eaton
913-451-7371
New Century Composite
Squadron

State Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield

Randy Dunn
573-243-9682
Patriot Guard Riders - Missouri

Black Hills National Cemetery - Sturgis

Jeff Anderson
605-391-7610
Patriot Guard Riders - SD

Onaga Downtown Doughboy Statue - Onaga

Gene Gilsdorf
785-889-4483
Onaga American Legion and
VFW

State Veterans Cemetery in Jacksonville

Larry Carmer
660-651-5702
Patriot Guard Riders - Missouri

Fort Meade National Cemetery

Jeff Anderson
605-391-7610
Patriot Guard Riders - SD

Kansas Veterans Cemetery at Winfield

Maj. Ronald Muhasky
316-721-9902
Emerald City Composite
Squadron

St. James Missouri Veterans Cemetery

Randy Sundquist
573-336-2122
Patriot Guard Riders - Missouri

State Veterans Cemetery in Springfield

Clifford Hall
417-835-2819
Patriot Guard Riders - Missouri

Note: The Patriot Guard Riders is a motorcycle and motor vehicle group with over 65,000 members nationally who are dedicated to patriotic events and escorts.

For more information, visit: <http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/>

Minute of Silence

(Continued from Page 1)

- "To remember the CAP volunteers who perform disaster relief missions for America ... during hurricanes, floods, wildfires, earthquakes, tornadoes and countless other emergencies;
- "To remember Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program's leadership training, which has nurtured the talents of generations of America's sons and daughters;
- "To remember the more than 900 educators who annually partner with CAP to promote aerospace education nationwide.



Cadets Wiley Rutland (left) and Dallas Hernandez of the Autauga-Elmore Composite Squadron listen as Col. Russell Hodgkins, CAP/USAF commander, describes the bond between the Air Force and CAP. (Photo by Susan Robertson)

Marc Huchette, CAP director of program development, opened the ceremony by telling his audience that "65 years ago today the Civil

Air Patrol was created, and we've come full circle since then. As the original homeland defenders we've come full circle during 9/11 and even gone beyond that with our hurricane relief and our Missions for America."

Following Huchette was Col. Russell Hodgkins, CAP-USAF commander, who told his listeners that "we're here to remember that 65 years ago today a group of dedicated Americans volunteered their time, their effort to serve their nation. We remember this brave band of aviation pioneers not only for what they did but also for the legacy that they left.

"The challenges that our nation faces today, although different than the challenges that our nation faced in 1941, are no less serious, no less challenging," Hodgkins said. "Our nation certainly needs the help that all of the Civil Air Patrol volunteers are able to put forth.

"So let's remember not only the Civil Air Patrol volunteers of the past," he continued. "We also remember the Civil Air Patrol volunteers of the present and the Civil Air Patrol volunteers of the future for the things that they will do to rise to meet the challenges that our nation will face."

Hodgkins assured his listeners that "the Air Force highly values the partnership that we've forged with the Civil Air Patrol over the past 65 years. On behalf of the Air Force I'd like to thank all Civil Air Patrol volunteers, past and present, for their service both to the Air Force and to our nation."

Missouri Wing Member Delivers Supplies in Iraq

Transporting supplies through the dangerous roads of Iraq is the last place Maj. Bradley Sanker expected to be using skills he learned through CAP.

Maj. Sanker is a Technical Sergeant in the US Air Force currently assigned to combat convoy operations in Iraq. Sanker has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since March, 2006. After completing eight weeks of intense convoy training he and more than one hundred other USAF vehicle operators and security forces personnel began the dangerous task of transporting supplies to troops at forward bases around Iraq.

"Emergency Services training has proved extremely useful on the roads," Sanker said. "The high stress environment is similar to the high ops tempo we operate in support of search missions and disaster relief for CAP".

Sanker is assigned as a convoy commander and has logged over 12,000 miles in Iraq. He is the information technology officer for the Missouri Wing.

Iowa Wing Celebrates 65 Years

Iowa Wing celebrated 65 years of service to the state of Iowa during its annual wing conference at Iowa's Joint Forces Headquarters at Camp Dodge.

Featured guests were Jerry Ostendorf of Iowa Homeland Security and LtCol Mike Jensen of the Iowa National Guard. Training was offered to members in MIMS, WMIRS and eServices. The Field Grade Officer's Council also met.

The theme of the conference was the wing returning to its roots. Observers noted that the reorganization of the wing has returned it to the structure it had in its first ten years.

At right, NCR Commander Col. Sean Fagan addresses the wing conference awards banquet.



NDWG Cadet Earns Eagle Scout Award

C/2LT Eric Jacobson not only focuses his attention on Civil Air Patrol, but also has his sights set on earning the Boy Scouts highest award, the Eagle Scout Award. He has been a scout since 1997 when he joined as a Cub Scout.

Jacobson earned 32 merit badges and is a member of the Boy Scout's fraternity, The Order of the Arrow. He completed his Eagle Scout project this summer where he was required to put a detailed plan together for a project to help others.

Cadet Jacobson focused on a project at Elks Camp Grassick, a summer camp that serves both children and adults with physical and mental disabilities. The camp is located on the south shore of Lake Isabel, midway between Jamestown and Bismarck, North Dakota. Five different camping sessions are conducted each summer season and about 120 children and 75 adults are served each summer with therapy and recreational programming. The Elks Camp Grassick is the only camp of this type in the state of North Dakota.

Jacobson's project included detailed plans for a deck outside a frequently used trading post that many of the campers had a problem getting to because it was essentially a dirt mound in front of the window. He was



able to get volunteers together to drive over 100 miles to the camp where they constructed the deck for the campers. It was completed in time for the summer 2006 camping season and Dan Mimnaugh, Elks Camp Grassick Director, reported that the deck far exceeded his expectations for the quality of workmanship. The deck has become a welcome addition to the camp; keeping the campers safe and giving them a more enjoyable time at the camp.

Hard work and dedication to volunteering helped this cadet make a difference to all of the campers this summer and for many summers to come. Cadet Jacobson was scheduled to be presented with his Eagle Scout Award on December 10th during a ceremony in Fargo, North Dakota.



NDWG Cadets Train for Color Guard

Cadets from four squadrons located in separate corners of North Dakota came together in Bismarck, ND to learn what the National Cadet Competition is all about. Cadets were exposed to all aspects of NCC ranging from drill team to color guard. Twenty cadets attended the event and were encouraged to learn all they could and take that knowledge back to their home squadrons for other cadets to use.

C/MSGT Mike Mees, North Dakota Wing Cadet Drill Comp Advisor, covered what is required of cadets who choose to be on a NCC team. All of the cadets took quizzes, went through inspections, and practiced standard drill to get the feeling of several events. Every cadet was encouraged to find the courage within themselves to step up to the challenge of being on the North Dakota Wing Drill Team. They learned that although there are challenges with being on an NCC drill team the rewards are tenfold.

The cadets also spent time learning about the color guard part of NCC as well. Last year's ND Wing color guard team commander, C/2LT Eric Jacobson, and a staff of five other cadets instructed the other cadets on what to expect when competing in a color guard competition at the wing and region level. They received hands on experience with drill rifles and carrying the flags properly. They also participated in a panel quiz which tested their quick recall of CAP knowledge.

Each cadet was instructed to take what they learned back to their home squadron and begin preparing for the North Dakota Wing competition that will be held in March. All of them were motivated and excited about the prospects of participating in the upcoming competition and seeing how much their peers learned from the activity.

Offutt Squadron Holds Change of Command

The General Curtis E. LeMay Offutt Composite Squadron held a change-of-command ceremony 18 November, at a dinner celebrating the squadron's 50th anniversary.

Wing Commander Colonel Bob Todd presided over the ceremony in which outgoing commander, Lieutenant Colonel Darrell McMillan, relinquished command to Lieutenant Colonel David Waite.

"I want to personally thank LtCol Darrell McMillan for leading our squadron for the past three years," said Lieutenant Colonel Waite. "His knowledge of Civil Air Patrol's rules and regulations will do him well in his next job on wing staff as the Inspector General."

Lieutenant Colonel Waite, a member of Civil Air Patrol for 18 years, is also an Air Force Lieutenant Colonel working at the United States Strategic Command on Offutt Air Force Base. This will be Lieutenant Colonel Waite's first command of a Civil Air Patrol unit.

After the ceremonial passing of the flag from the exiting commander to the incoming one, Lieutenant Colonel McMillan pinned the squadron command badge on Lieutenant Colonel Waite.



At the end of the ceremony, Lieutenant Colonel Waite presented Lieutenant Colonel McMillan, above, with a statue of an eagle recognizing his years of dedicated service to CAP and the squadron.

ncr.cap.gov



Offutt Cadets Complete Phase One Training Class

Nine cadets from the General Curtis E. LeMay Offutt Composite Squadron recently completed a phase one course that culminated in the cadets receiving their first stripe.

Leading the class were Cadet Programs officers, Capt Christin Scott and Major Randall MacVay. The course used the National Headquarters orientation program as a guideline.

Classes included: uniforms, customs and courtesies, CAP missions & organization, cadet program, drill and ceremonies and a Curry exam review.

At the conclusion of the class, the cadets were given the Curry exam. All nine cadets passed with three of the cadets receiving perfect scores of 100%. All of the cadets did extremely well with no score lower than 84%.

According to Capt Scott, "the difference in the cadets between the first and last days was amazing. There was much improvement over that period."

Cadets who completed the phase one course were Daniel Deever, Richard McVay, Andrew Miller, Noah Morse, Rachel Morse, Chris Schneider, Rachael Schnitker, Roger Schnitker, and Nathaniel Schultz.

SLS/CLC Planned

Rushmore Composite Squadron, Rapid City, SD, will be hosting SLS and CLC courses at Ellsworth AFB on January 20-21 2007. Billeting will be available for attendees on base.

The simultaneous courses will start at 0800 on Saturday morning with the courses and go through Sunday early afternoon. There will also be a social gathering Saturday night in the local Rapid City area.

Please email project officer Maj. Michael Mouw with your application at: mikemouw@hotmail.com

"These courses will be held the same weekend as the South Dakota Cadet Leadership Academy for NCO/Amn on Ellsworth AFB," said Mouw. "So if you are bring Cadets to the Academy and you need one of the two courses, take advantage of this opportunity. We will need applications by Jan. 13th to set up access for you on base. Look forward to seeing you there!"

MNWG Finds Crash, ILWG Cadet Dead

Minnesota Wing Ground Teams responded to a report of an ELT going off in the Crookston, MN Area on Friday December 1st.

The Air Force Rescue and Coordination Center received satellite information of an aircraft emergency transponder going off and contacted the Minnesota Wing Duty Officer, Major Chet Wilberg.

A team from the North West Minnesota Squadron was sent to the Crookston Municipal Airport. The team contacted local police and the airport's Fixed Base Operator (FBO) to help with search of airport. The FBO noticed a Cessna 172 was not on the ramp where it should be after being rented earlier in the day.

The ground team searched south of the airport and located the missing plane, crashed less than 2 miles southwest of the airport.

Two people were found dead in the aircraft. They were Jacob Rueth of Orland Park, Ill., and Jacob Sundblad of Annandale, MN. Both were Aviation Students at the University of North Dakota.

Rueth was a member of the Civil Air Patrol's Lewis Composite Squadron based in Romeoville, IL. He had earned the Amelia Earhart Award and was very active in the squadron.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the crash.

Miller Takes Group II Command

Maj (Dr.) David A. Miller assumed command of Group II of the Missouri Wing in a ceremony held during the monthly Group Command and Staff meeting on 8 November 2006. Special guest at the ceremony was Col. Sean Fagan, the newly appointed North Central Region Commander.

The former Group II Vice Commander, Maj. Miller now commands the largest group in the Missouri Wing with fourteen squadrons and almost half the total Wing membership. His other duties have included Medical and Public Affairs Officer at the group level; and Assistant Medical Officer, Assistant Public Affairs Officer, and Recruiting & Retention Officer at the wing level. Miller also serves as chair of the wing's legislative committee and was named the Missouri Wing Public Affairs Officer of the Year for 2006.

Married with two young boys who are not quite old enough to become cadets, Maj. Miller is a family physician in private practice in St. Louis, Missouri. He is the past president of the St. Louis Academy of Family Physicians and the Family Health Foundation of Missouri. He continues to serve on the board of directors of the Missouri Academy of Family Physicians.

Maj. Miller's Civil Air Patrol awards include two Commander's Commendations, the Brigadier General Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager Aerospace Education Achievement Award, the Search and Rescue Find Ribbon, the Leadership Award, the Membership Award, and the Encampment Ribbon.



Maj. Edward Mueth, former Group II Commander and new Missouri Wing Vice Commander; Maj. (Dr.) David A. Miller, newly appointed Group II Commander; and Col. Sean Fagan, North Central Region Commander. (Photo by 1Lt Michael Smith)

Missouri Group V Starts Disaster Response Team

Missouri Wing's Group V has created a special team of qualified members agreeing to short response times, long deployment times and increased levels of specialized training.

The Disaster Response Team is comprised of new members who have the want and desire to help those in need and old timers who have knowledge and experience to impart.

Upon return from the Katrina Hurricane disaster, Missouri CAP Katrina participants began brain storming about why the Missouri Wing couldn't have responded with more qualified members in a timelier manner. Instead of creating a "what if" scenario, Lt. Coll. Jim Wiley and Maj. Kat Wiley began actively recruiting old and new members to begin the Group V Disaster Response Team, affectionately known as "D-RAT".

After intense training, D-RAT is now comprised of members who are willing and ready to assist with natural or unnatural disasters that could fall upon fellow citizens in Missouri, the North Central Region or the rest of the United States.

With the possibilities of large scale disasters that occur with earthquakes, tornadoes, and floods that effect Missouri alone and the continuous man-made disasters that include transportation mishaps or aircraft accidents, D-RAT is ready to respond to those in need. Interested personnel should contact Maj. Ed Leonard, Group V Commander.

Joint Dakota Encampment Planned

North and South Dakota Wings are well into the planning stages of the 2007 Joint Dakota Cadet Encampment.

The encampment will be held at Camp Rapid, Rapid City, SD, from July 8th through the 15th 2007 in Rapid City.

Many applications have been received, but the encampment still needs officers and cadets for staff positions. If you plan to attend please email encampment commander Maj. Michael Mouw with your application and resume at: mikemouw@hotmail.com

"It looks to be an exciting encampment," said Mouw, "but we need your help and ideas to make this happen. Thanks in advance for your assistance and dedication."

Ryan Assumes Command of Northstar Cadet Squadron

With nearly 70 people in attendance, Captain Ryan Brovold officially took command of the Northstar Cadet Squadron of the Minnesota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol during a December



(L-R) Captain Pat Cruze, outgoing commander of the Northstar Cadet Squadron, greets some of the 70 people who attended the change of commander ceremony with incoming commander Captain Ryan Brovold, at the St. Cloud Armory.

11 ceremony at the St. Cloud Armory.

Brovold joined CAP in the fall of 2001 after September 11th, eventually rising to operations officer of the North Hennepin Squadron. He joined the St. Cloud Senior Squadron in the fall of 2004 serving as both aerospace education officer and professional development officer. Since the summer of 2005 he has been deputy commander

of the 25 member St. Cloud Senior Squadron. Brovold has been a pilot since 1995.

"I have heard only great things about the Northstar Cadet Squadron," Brovold said. "They have a marvelous reputation and I intend to build on that during my tenure. I consider it a great honor to command this squadron."

Brovold replaces Captain Pat Cruze, a retired department of corrections employee, who commanded the 25 member cadet squadron since October 2004. Cruze, of St. Cloud, became a CAP member when his son joined the organization in September 2002. His son is following in his father's footsteps and is currently serving in the US Air Force.

As Cruze leaves command he reflected on his time with the squadron. "I like to think of how many young lives I influenced or how many young lives I helped set clear goals for in a positive way. These are the accomplishments that one cannot set a price or value on that will continue to give me rewards for years to come. I will also miss working with a very highly dedicated staff that is extremely motivated and very competent. It has been an honor to have served with such fine people."

Also attending the change of command ceremony were Brigadier General Gerald Lang, Minnesota Army National Guard; Lieutenant Colonel Tom Kettell, Minnesota Wing vice commander; Major Al Matson, Minnesota Wing Group 2 commander; and State Representative Larry Haws (DFL) of St. Cloud.

Cass County Squadron Holds DDR Party

The Missouri Wing Cass County Composite Squadron celebrated on October 31, 2006 with a Drug Demand Reduction Party at its squadron headquarters.

More than half of the registered cadets attended the event, along with cadets from five visiting squadrons. Missouri Wing Commander, Col. John Mais, also attended. Although the evening focused on the consequences of drug usage, the event allowed for laughter and light-hearted moments.

The highlight of the evening centered on the Fatal Vision Goggles. Senior members planned a variety of activities, including walking a straight line and writing their name, for the cadets to imagine the damage drinking and driving has on a life. The varying levels of goggles allowed cadets and senior members to visually experience the effects alcohol usage has on the senses. Cadet Josh Hargis commented, "It was very realistic. I know I never want to be drunk."

Other activities cadets participated in were games directed towards the drug demand reduction theme. The messiest and loudest competition was the "Your Brain on Drugs" game where cadets and senior members competed by finding raisins buried in cooked oatmeal while blindfolded. Cadets also attempted to complete an obstacle race with a scarecrow in tow during the "Drugs are Scary" competition.

The squadron included the community by passing out treats to passers-by, and literature to interested youth and adults.

Redbirds and Red Ribbons

Missouri Wing Group II's Redbird Cadet Squadron, hosted by Gateway Institute of Technology High School in St Louis, passed out over 2,000 red ribbons to faculty and staff at Gateway High School in support of the national Red Ribbon week. The Red Ribbon week is designed to promote Drug Demand Reduction and drug abuse awareness. Cadets and the high school's Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) class worked with the other Health Occupations classes to distribute Red Ribbons to the largest high school in the St Louis Public School district.